

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF REGISTRATION OF GENETIC COUNSELORS

DETERMINATION OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER COMPLIANCE FOR PROVISIONAL AND FULL
LICENSURE AS A GENETIC COUNSELOR

POLICY No. 08-02

[Adopted June 5, 2008]

I. PURPOSE

The Board of Registration of Genetic Counselors ("Board") is responsible for licensing qualified applicants as genetic counselors. Each applicant for a license to practice as a genetic counselor, in addition to complying with specified education and certification examination requirements, must possess the good moral character ("GMC") that is required by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 112, section 228, and Board regulations at 270 CMR 3.00. The Board adopts Policy No. 08-02 to identify the criteria for determining whether an applicant for licensure, and for extension or renewal of a license, meets the "good moral character" prerequisite for licensure.

II. GOOD MORAL CHARACTER

Qualities evidencing an applicant's current good moral character for purposes of licensure include candor and honesty, integrity, a respect for the law, regard for the welfare, safety, and rights of another, and fidelity and trustworthiness in the practice of other professions for which he or she may be licensed. Conversely, an applicant whose conduct reflects the absence of one or more of these qualities may be said to lack the good moral character required for licensure. The burden of showing that an applicant possesses the requisite current good moral character for licensure is on the applicant.

III. CONDUCT DEMONSTRATING ABSENCE OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER

The Board has determined that certain conduct demonstrates the absence of the good moral character essential for safe and competent practice as a genetic counselor. The Board may consider the following criminal dispositions and the conduct underlying them in determining whether an applicant meets the GMC requirement for licensure: conviction of a crime, entering a plea of guilty to a crime, entering a plea of *nolo contendere* to a crime, or admitting to sufficient facts to warrant a finding of guilty of a crime. The Board may also consider denial of, or discipline against, a license or other authorization to practice any trade, occupation, or profession by another governmental authority in Massachusetts or by a governmental authority in another state or jurisdiction, and denial of, or adverse action against, professional certification or recertification by a non-governmental body in determining whether an applicant meets the GMC licensure requirement.

IV. NOTICE OF DENIAL OF LICENSURE

The Board will notify in writing each applicant for licensure whom the Board does not find eligible under Policy No. 08-02 of its preliminary decision to deny licensure, the reason(s) for such denial, and the opportunity for review of such denial as set forth in Policy No. 08-03. As part of its notification, the Board, in its discretion, may also inform the applicant of the requirements, if any, that the applicant must satisfy before the applicant may reapply for licensure.